TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	09/393,718
Filing Date	September 10, 1999
First Named Inventor	Farzad Nazem
Art Unit	2756
Examiner Name	Nguyen, Cindy

Total Number of Pages in This Submission	16	Attorney Docket Number	017887-000310US

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ENCLOSURES *(Check all that apply)*

- ☒ Fee Transmittal Form
  - ☐ Fee Attached
- ☐ Amendment/Reply
  - ☐ After Final
  - ☐ Affidavits/declaration(s)
- ☐ Extension of Time Request
- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
  - ☐ Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53

- ☐ Drawing(s)
- ☐ Licensing-related Papers
- ☐ Petition
- ☐ Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application
- ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address
- ☐ Terminal Disclaimer
- ☐ Request for Refund
- ☐ CD, Number of CD(s)

- ☐ After Allowance Communication to Group
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Group (**Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief**)
- ☐ Proprietary Information
- ☐ Status Letter
- ☒ Other Enclosure(s) *(please identify below):*

Substitute Appellant's Brief (in triplicate), Appendix A, Return Postcard

Remarks

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 20-1430.

Applicant requests a one-month extension of time to respond.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual	Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP
	Brian N. Young Reg. No. 48,602
Signature	
Date	7/19/04

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Typed or printed name	Julie Taylor Clough		
Signature	Julie Taylor Clough	Date	July 19, 2004

60150611 v1

FEE TRANSMITTAL
for FY 2004

Effective 10/01/2003. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ($) 385

Complete if Known	
Application Number	09/393,718
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METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other ☐ None
☒ Deposit Account:

Deposit Account Number: **20-1430**

Deposit Account Name: **Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP**

The Director is authorized to: (check all that apply)
☒ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☒ Credit any overpayments
☒ Charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s)
☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code	Fee ($)	Small Entity Fee Code	Fee ($)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1001	770	2001	385	Utility filing fee	
1002	340	2002	170	Design filing fee	
1003	530	2003	265	Plant filing fee	
1004	770	2004	385	Reissue filing fee	
1005	160	2005	80	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) ($)

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

	Extra Claims		Fee from below		Fee Paid
Total Claims		-** =		X	=
Independent Claims		-** =		X	=
Multiple Dependent				X	

Large Entity Fee Code	Fee ($)	Small Entity Fee Code	Fee ($)	Fee Description
1202	18	2202	9	Claims in excess of 20
1201	86	2201	43	Independent claims in excess of 3
1203	290	2203	145	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
1204	86	2204	43	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
1205	18	2205	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) ($)

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code	Fee ($)	Small Entity Fee Code	Fee ($)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1051	130	2051	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet.	
1053	130	1053	130	Non-English specification	
1812	2,520	1812	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	
1804	920*	1804	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251	110	2251	55	Extension for reply within first month	55
1252	420	2252	210	Extension for reply within second month	
1253	950	2253	475	Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,480	2254	740	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	2,010	2255	1,005	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	330	2401	165	Notice of Appeal	
1402	330	2402	165	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	330
1403	290	2403	145	Request for oral hearing	
1451	1,510	1451	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452	110	2452	55	Petition to revive – unavoidable	
1453	1,330	2453	665	Petition to revive – unintentional	
1501	1,330	2501	665	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502	480	2502	240	Design issue fee	
1503	640	2503	320	Plant issue fee	
1460	130	1460	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807	50	1807	50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809	770	2809	385	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
1810	770	2810	385	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
1801	770	2801	385	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802	900	1802	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify) —————————

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid **SUBTOTAL (3)** ($)385

SUBMITTED BY				Complete (if applicable)	
Name (Print/Type)	Brian N. Young	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	48,602	Telephone	415-576-0200
Signature				Date	7/14/04

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 017887-000310US

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Technology Center 2100

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re application of:	
Farzad Nazem	Examiner: Cindy Nguyen
Application No.: 09/393,718	Art Unit: 3195
Filed: September 10, 1999	**SUBSTITUTE** APPELLANT'S BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §1.192
For: Dynamic Page Generator	

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Appellant offers this brief in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal filed on

February 20, 2004 in the above-referenced patent application. This brief is submitted in

triplicate as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(a). Please deduct the requisite fee, pursuant to 37

C.F.R. § 1.17(c), of $330.00 from deposit account 20-1430, and deduct any additional fees from

or credit any excess fees associated with the Appeal Brief to such deposit account. Appendix A,

attached hereto, contains a copy of all claims pending in this case.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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I.   REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest of the subject patent application is Yahoo!, Inc., the assignee of the present application.

II.   RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals and interferences known to Appellant, Appellant's legal representative, or assignee that will directly affect, be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending Appeal.

III.   STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 10-28 are pending. Claims 10-28 stand finally rejected. Appellant appeals from the rejection of all of these claims.

IV.   STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendment was filed subsequent to the final rejection.

V.   SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

The present invention generally relates to the field of customized information presentation and more specifically to a custom page server configured to serve a customized page according to a user's preferences.

Embodiments of the present invention are directed towards an improved custom page server. User preferences are organized into templates that are stored and live data is obtained from information sources and used to fill a user template. *See specification*, page 2, lines 24-29. The user template program is stored in a data structure that is indexed by a user identifier that is unique to a user. *See specification*, page 5, lines 14-26. Upon receiving a user request for a customized page, a user identifier is determined. *See specification*, page 4, lines 31-37. A stored template program specific to a user is then retrieved using the user identifier. *See specification*, page 5, lines 1-26.

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The template program is executed to generate a customized page for the user. The customized page includes real-time information that is used as input to the template program to generate the customized page. *See specification*, page 6, lines 1-9. The user is then provided with a customized page where the customized page includes at least one item of real-time information selected from the storage device. *See specification*, page 9, lines 10-24.

VI. ISSUE PRESENTED

The issue on appeal is:

Are claims 10-14, 19 and 20 unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Butman, et. al (U.S. Patent No. 5,867,665, hereinafter "Butman") in view of DuFresne (U.S. Patent No. 5,35,712), and are claims 15-18 and 21-28 unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Butman in view of DuFresne and further in view of Gerace (U.S. Patent No. 5,848,396)?

VII. GROUPING OF THE CLAIMS:

The claims do not stand or fall together. While each claim might stand alone for patentability purposes, for expediency, Appellant has grouped claims into three groups of claims to be given separate consideration for purposes of this appeal. The first group of claims (the "Group I claims") includes independent claim 10 and dependent claims 11-18; the second group of claims (the "Group II claims") includes independent claim 19; and the third group of claims (the "Group III claims") includes independent claim 20 and dependent claims 21-28. Appellant could argue for separate patentability of a number of dependent claims, but because Appellant believes the independent claims are allowable and the dependent claims derive patentability at least is therefrom, Appellant focuses this appeal on the three groups of claims stated above without conceding separate patentability of the dependent claims.

VIII. ARGUMENT

A. The Group I claims

1. Overview of the Section 103(a) Argument

Butman and DuFresne, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest:

storing a <u>user-specific template program</u> for the user in a data structure indexed by a <u>user identifier unique to the user</u>;

...
        determining a user identifier associated with the request;

        retrieving a stored template program specific to the user in the data structure using the determined user identifier associated with the request;

        executing the template program specific to the user using the real-time information stored in the storage device as input to the template program to generate the customized page, wherein the template program indicates items of interest to the user; and

        providing the user with the customized page, wherein the customized page includes at least one item of real-time information selected from the storage device.

Appellant respectfully submits that the Section 103 rejection is improper because every element is not taught or suggested by Butman and DuFresne, either alone or in combination. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to meet the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art reference, and not be based on the applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d. 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). (See MPEP § 2143).

2.   Overview Of The Cited References

Butman discloses a domain communication server for storing a dynamic client registry for client side communication servers. The domain communication server determines all domain clients that may be within a domain. *See Butman*, col. 27, lines 45-52. The domain's content is loaded from table indexes and stored internally as index objects. *See Butman*, col. 27, lines 41-44. The domain communication server determines templates that are used by the domain's clients. The templates are used to organize the domain's index objects. *See Butman*, col. 27, lines 53-62.

DuFresne discloses systems and methods for providing templates for constructing web source text. DuFresne states that access control lists are used to limit access to a specific group of authorized users. *See DuFresne*, col. 10, lines 9-11.

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3.   Prosecution History

In an Office Action mailed November 20, 2003, the Examiner rejected claim 10 over Butman and DuFresne. The Examiner stated that Butman disclosed every element of claim 10 but did not disclose "executing the template program specific to the user using the real-time information stored in the storage device as input to the template program to generate the customized page, wherein the template program indicates items of interest to the user." The Examiner cited DuFresne as disclosing this element. Also, the Examiner stated that "it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include the steps to input data in realtime to the template to generate the customized page as claimed in the system of Butman as taught by DuFresne. The motivation being enable the input interesting data in which authorized user can input HTML source and codes and then store the information on template to a database so that authorized clients and server can access to the template (col. 10, lines 18-41, DuFresne)."

In a response mailed January 22, 2004, Appellant respectfully traversed the rejection. Appellant stated that Butman does not disclose or suggest user-specific templates. Also, Appellant stated that Butman does not disclose or suggest that user specific templates are indexed by a user identifier unique to a user and that a stored template program specific to the user is retrieved using a determined user identifier. Additionally, Appellant argued that DuFresne's access control lists do not disclose or suggest template programs specific to a user where a template program indicates items of interest to the user.

In an advisory action mailed February 10, 2004, the Examiner stated that the response of the Appellant did not place the application in condition for an allowance because Appellant's arguments were not persuasive. In the advisory action, the Examiner stated that Appellant is reminded that he is responsible for the four corners of the references. In particular, it was stated that DuFresne as applied teaches the use of user specific templates. The Examiner did not specifically address the arguments with respect to Butman.

4.   Butman and DuFresne, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or
         suggest every element of the Group I Claims

Appellant submits that Butman and DuFresne, either alone or in combination do

not disclose or suggest every element of claim 10 and further that the Examiner has not

substantively responded to the Appellant's arguments. The Final Rejection states that Butman

discloses displaying a user-specific template program for a user in a data structure indexed by a

user identifier unique to the user at col. 27, lines 40-62. The passage cited in Butman discloses

predefined templates for use by the domain's <u>clients</u>. Appellant submits that the predefined

templates do not disclose or suggest user-specific templates. Rather, Butman states that multiple

clients use the predefined templates. *See Butman*, col. 27, lines 53-56. Accordingly, Butman

does not disclose or suggest user-specific templates.

Further, the cited section discloses that templates are used to organize the

domain's index objects. The index objects are used to organize content by subject matter within

a given domain. *See Butman*, col. 30, lines 2-6. This does not disclose or suggest a user-specific

template program that is used to generate a page. Rather, the index objects are a list of subjects

that are used by a domain communications server to retrieve content from other servers. The list

of subjects is not specific to a user and cannot be used to generate a customized page for a user.

Moreover, Butman discloses that objects are shared with any number of client side

communication servers. *See Butman,* col. 21, lines 41-44. Accordingly, not only do clients in a

domain use the templates, multiple client side communication servers may access the templates.

Each client side communication server may be associated with a domain and include a number of

clients. Thus, within a domain, multiple clients may be associated with the templates and

multiple client side communication servers (each of which may have multiple domain clients)

are associated with the templates. Accordingly, Butman contemplates that <u>multiple</u> client side

communication servers and domain clients in the domains associated with the client side

communication servers can access the templates. Thus, Butman does not disclose or suggest that

the objects are <u>indexed by a user identifier</u> that is <u>unique to the user</u> or that they are <u>user-specific</u>.

Further, there is no suggestion in Butman that the templates are user-specific or

that the templates would be indexed by a user identifier. Even if DuFresne disclosed user-

specific templates (it does not), it would not have been obvious to include user-specific templates

in Butman because the templates in Butman are meant to be used for multiple client side communication servers and their domain clients. The templates are used to organize a domain's index objects. The index objects table is used to determine which client side communication servers are authorized to receive an object. If multiple client side communication servers are associated with an object, they would be listed in the table as having access to the object. Butman does not contemplate that each client side communication server includes a separate template. Moreover, the objects table does not disclose or suggest a template that is used to generate a customized page. Rather, it is used to determine which data should be sent to which client side communication servers.

The final rejection further asserts that retrieving a stored template program specific to the user in the data structure using the determined user identifier associated with the request is disclosed at col. 30, lines 24-36 in Butman. This passage discloses virtual server objects are returned to a client. Appellant submits that the cited section does not disclose or suggest a stored template program that is specific to a user and that is retrieved using a determined user identifier. Rather, the objects referenced are used to determine the sites of all other client side communication servers considered to be of the same firm. This does not suggest retrieving a stored template program specific to a user.

Additionally, the rejection asserts that Butman does not disclose or suggest executing a template program specific to the user using real time information stored in the source device's input to the template program to generate the customized page, wherein the template program indicates items of interest to the user, but DuFresne does. In the response to the final rejection, Appellant's traversed this point and specifically argued that DuFresne does not disclose or suggest a template program specific to a user. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner stated that DuFresne is applied as teaching the user-specific templates and that Appellant was reminded that he is responsible for the four corners of the references.

DuFresne discloses access control lists that limit access to a specific group of authorized users. Appellant submits that this does not disclose or suggest a template program specific to a user where the template program includes items of interest to the user. DuFresne discloses that access control lists limit access to a group of authorized users. See DuFresne, col. 10, lines 9-11. Appellant submits that controlling access for a group of authorized users does not

disclose or suggest user-specific templates. Also, DuFresne is directed towards controlling access to templates. Even if access is limited to a single user, this only suggests that a single user can access the template. Nowhere in DuFresne is it disclosed or suggested that the templates are user specific. Access to a single user may only be inferred but whether the templates are user-specific is not disclosed or suggested by DuFresne. For example, the templates may be used for multiple users but only a single user may access a template. The access control list is for allowing only certain users to edit the template. Moreover, DuFresne does not disclose or suggest that a user-specific template program indicates items of interest to a user.

DuFresne also does not cure the defects of the Butman reference. For example, DuFresne and Butman, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest that templates are indexed by a user identifier unique to a user or user-specific templates. Thus, Butman and DuFresne, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest every element of claim 10.

B.   The Group II claims

1.   Prosecution History

The Group II claims were rejected for the same reasons as were stated for the Group I claims in the Final Office Action mailed November 20, 2003. Appellant argued in response to the Final Office Action that claim 19 should be allowable for at least a similar rationale discussed with respect to claim 10. In an Advisory Action mailed February 10, 2004, the Examiner stated the Appellant's arguments are not persuasive. Appellant was reminded that he is responsible for the four corners of the references. In particular, DuFresne is applied as teaching the use of user-specific templates (last paragraph, page 3 of the previous action).

2.   Butman and DuFresne, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest every element of the Group II claims

Appellant submits that Butman and DuFresne, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest "storing user-specific template programs for each of a plurality of users in a data structure indexed by user identifiers." Additionally, Butman and DuFresne, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest for each of a plurality of users, forming a template

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program for a specific user. Further, Butman and DuFresne, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest retrieving a stored template program specific to a user using a determined user identifier for the user, executing the template program specific to the user or providing the user with a customized page. Accordingly, Appellant submits that Butman and DuFresne, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest every element of the Group II claims.

C.   The Group III claims

1.   Prosecution History

The Group III claims rejected for the same reasons as the Group I and Group II claims in the Final Office Action mailed November 20, 2003 in addition, the Office Action stated that Butman/DuFresne disclosed "a second template program specific to the second user (col. 9, lines 50-59, DuFresne) using the real time information stored in the storage device as input to the second template program to generate a second customized page for a second user (col. 10, lines 7-32, DuFresne)." In response to the Final Office Action, Appellant argued that claim 20 should be allowable for at least a similar rationale as discussed with respect to claim 10. Additionally, Appellant argued, in the response mailed January 22, 2004, that DuFresne and Butman, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest generating a first customized page for a first user and a second customized page for a second user.
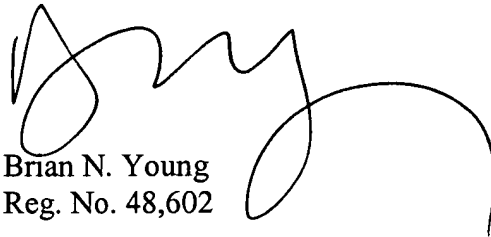
2.   Butman and DuFresne, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest every element of the Group III claims.

Appellant submits that claim 20 should be allowable for at least a similar rationale as discussed with respect to the Group I and Group II claims. Additionally, Appellant submits that DuFresne and Butman, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a first stored template program specific to a first user and a second stored template program specific to a second user. Also, DuFresne and Butman, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest generating a first customized page for the first user and a second customized page for the second user. The rejection cited col. 19, lines 50-59 as describing this element. This passage in DuFresne discloses templates that include ID fields or access control fields. The access control fields and ID may limit access and provide an ID for a template but do not disclose or suggest a

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first template program for a first user and a second template program for a second user, or a first customized page for the first user and a second customized page for the second user. In fact, DuFresne and Butman, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest user-specific templates. Accordingly, Butman and DuFresne, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest every element of the Group III claims.

Please deduct the requisite fee, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.17(c), of $330.00 from deposit account 20-1430 and any additional fees associated with this Brief. This Brief is submitted in triplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rev. 10/03

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IX.

APPENDIX A TO
APPELLANT'S BRIEF

PENDING CLAIMS OF U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/393,718
FOR: DYNAMIC PAGE GENERATOR

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

10.   (Previously Presented) In a page server coupled to a network, a method of providing a customized page to a user, wherein the customized page is customized according to the user's preferences, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining real-time information from information sources;

storing the real-time information in a storage device;

storing a user-specific template program for the user in a data structure indexed by a user identifier unique to the user;

receiving, from the user and at the page server, a user request for a customized page; and thereafter

determining a user identifier associated with the request;

retrieving a stored template program specific to the user in the data structure using the determined user identifier associated with the request;

executing the template program specific to the user using the real-time information stored in the storage device as input to the template program to generate the customized page, wherein the template program indicates items of interest to the user; and

providing the user with the customized page, wherein the customized page includes at least one item of real-time information selected from the storage device.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim , further including prior to the step of receiving the user request the steps of caching the template program in a storage location local to the page server.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim , further comprising the step of receiving user preferences for the user, wherein the user preferences indicate the items of

interest to the user, and combining the user preferences with a generic template to form the template program specific to the user.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim , further including the step of providing the template program specific to the user to the page server.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim , wherein the page server performs the step of combining the user preferences with the generic template.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim , wherein the real-time information comprises stock quotes, sports scores and news headlines.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim , further comprising a step of generating a default user configuration for the user based on demographic information of the user.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim , wherein the step of generating a default user configuration comprises the steps of:

determining a default list of cities for a weather report based on user demographic information; and

determining one or more sports teams for sports reporting based on user demographic information.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim , wherein the steps of determining comprise the steps of:

obtaining user postal code information;

translating the postal code information to user geographic position;

comparing the user geographic position to geographic positions assigned to each city and sports team; and

determining a threshold distance from the user geographic position which is greater than or equal to a distance to a predetermined nonzero number of cities and a predetermined nonzero number of sports team geographic positions.

19. (Previously Presented) Using a page server, a method of providing real-time responses to user requests from a plurality of users for customized pages, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining user preferences for the plurality of users, wherein a user's user preferences indicate items of interest to that user;

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obtaining real-time information from information sources;

storing the real-time information in a storage device;

for each of the plurality of users, combining the user preferences for a specific user and a template to form a template program specific to the user at the page server;

storing user-specific template programs for each of the plurality of users in a data structure indexed by user identifiers;

receiving, from a user at the page server, a user request for a customized page;

determining a user identifier associated with the request;

retrieving a stored template program specific to the user in the data structure using the determined user identifier for the user;

executing the template program specific to the user using the real-time information stored in the storage device as input to the template program to generate the customized page at the page server according to the user preferences; and

providing the user with the customized page, wherein the steps of executing and providing are performed in real-time response to receipt of the user request in the step of receiving and wherein the customized page includes at least one item of real-time information selected from the storage device.

20.   (Previously Presented) In a page server coupled to a network, a method of providing customized pages to a plurality of users, wherein a customized page for a user is customized according to the user's preferences, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining real-time information from information sources;

storing the real-time information in a storage device;

storing user-specific template programs for each of the plurality of users in a data structure indexed by user identifiers; receiving, at the page server, requests for a customized page from the plurality of users, wherein a first request is received from a first user in the plurality of users and a second request is received from a second user; and thereafter

determining a first user identifier associated with the first request;

determining a second user identifier associated with the second request;

retrieving a first stored template program specific to the first user in the data structure using the determined first user identifier for the first user; retrieving a second stored

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template program specific to the second user in the data structure using the determined second user identifier for the second user;

executing the first template program specific to the first user and the second template program specific to the second user using the real-time information stored in the storage device as input to the first and second template programs to generate a first customized page for the first user and a second customized page for the second user, wherein the first template program uses data associated with the first user and the second user template uses data associated with the second user; and

providing the first user with the first customized page and the second user with the second customized page, wherein the first and second customized page include at least one item of real-time information selected from the storage device.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim , further including prior to the step of receiving the user requests the steps of caching the first and second template programs in a storage location local to the page server.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim , further comprising the step of receiving user preferences for the first and second users, wherein the user preferences indicate the items of interest to the first and second users, and combining the user preferences for the first user with a generic template to form the first template program specific to the first user and combining the user preferences for the second user with the generic template to form the second template program specific to the second user.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim , further including the step of providing the first and second template programs to the page server.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim , wherein the page server performs the step of combining the user preferences with the generic template for the first and second users.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim , wherein the real-time information comprises stock quotes, sports scores and news headlines.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim , further comprising a step of generating a default user configuration for the first and second users based on demographic information of the first and second users.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim , wherein the step of generating a default user configuration comprises the steps of:

determining a default list of cities for a weather report based on user demographic information; and

determining one or more sports teams for sports reporting based on user demographic information.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim , wherein the steps of determining comprise, for the first and second users, the steps of:

obtaining user postal code information;

translating the postal code information to user geographic position;

comparing the user geographic position to geographic positions assigned to each city and sports team; and

determining a threshold distance from the user geographic position which is greater than or equal to a distance to a predetermined nonzero number of cities and a predetermined nonzero number of sports team geographic positions.